

The Claims

1. A method of decoding images comprising the steps of:

- applying in parallel at least a first and a second optical character recognition process to an image, said image including a plurality of categorizations,

5 - determining if said first and second optical character recognition processes produce a substantially similar image result,

- if said image result is not similar, select a highest weighted OCR process categorization based result, and

10 - assigning said highest weighted OCR process categorization based result to said image result on a categorization by categorization basis.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said categorizations is directed to identification of an envelope upon which said image is printed.

15 3. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one categorization is directed to whether said image is handwritten or machine printed.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one categorization is directed to whether said image is handwritten or machine printed.

20 5. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one categorization is directed to identifying a background of color of said envelope.

25 6. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one categorization is directed to whether said envelope is a window or non-window envelope.

7. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one categorization is directed to whether said image is an address with or without a post code.

30 8. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one categorization is directed to whether said image is skewed.

9. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one categorization is directed to whether said envelope is glossy.

10. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one categorization is directed to whether said image is printed on a flat mail piece or a regular mail piece.

5 11. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one categorization is directed to numerics.

12. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one categorization is directed to letters.

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13. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one categorization is directed to flats.

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14. The method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one categorization is directed to an inward sorting process.

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16. Use of a computer to perform the method steps of claims 1-15.

17. Use of software to operate a processor of to effect the method steps of claims 1-15.

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18. A method of decoding images comprising the steps of:

- applying in parallel at least a first and a second optical character recognition process to an image, said image including a plurality of categorizations,

- determining if said first and second optical character recognition processes produce a substantially similar image result,

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- if said image result is not similar, manually encode the image, and

- statistically updating a weight of an OCR process based upon image encoding.

19. Use of a computer to perform the method steps of claim 18.